

Q&As

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1. What is the RCMP's role in Ottawa?

- First, I would note that the Ottawa Police Service is the lead agency as the police of jurisdiction and as such is the lead to resolve this issue.
- The RCMP is playing a significant support role and has a number of relevant functions within the NCR:
- National Division RCMP Protective Operations are responsible for the protection of various Canadian dignitaries who fall under the RCMP's mandate. This includes the Prime Minister and his family, and the Governor General, as well as their official residences and designated sites in the National Capital Region.
- Parliamentary Protective Service holds jurisdiction for safeguarding the physical security of Parliament Hill.

2. What is the RCMP doing to help the OPS?

- We are and will continue to support the Ottawa police.

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- We now have more than 275 members sworn in under the Ottawa Police's command as of late yesterday.
- These resources are a pool to ensure we have enough long term capacity to support the 50 we provide daily. This is simply the roster to fulfill the needs for OPS and for the RCMP's needs. We have not expanded on our commitment, we are pooling names so as to be able to cover the existing commitment.
- This includes many of the resources that have been on the ground throughout, including three Tactical Groups deployed to provide support at Parliament Hill, the Senate and Rideau Hall.
- We have also continued to support through a variety of other enforcement functions. These include joint intel/ops teams, Provincial Liaison Teams, and the National Capital Region Command Centre.

3. Can you provide more resources?

- We are continuing to assess how we can deploy more resources, recognizing the need to provide coverage across shifts on a rotating basis and the potential to surge to support OPS to implement a dedicated enforcement plan.

4. How can the RCMP fall under Ottawa Police Service jurisdiction?

- Legally, if OPS isn't in command, then the OPP would be. The officers mobilized to support OPS, are sworn in as Special Constables to have those policing powers at the municipal and provincial level within Ontario.
- To enforce municipal, and provincial law, we can have members designated under the other jurisdictions. For the RCMP to share resources with OPS, the OPS and the RCMP needed to enter into an agreement whereby the OPS utilizes members of the RCMP subject to certain terms and conditions;
 - the OPS is a police service constituted under and subject to the *Police Services Act* and its associated Regulations and the RCMP is a police force continued under and subject to the *Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act* and its associated Regulations;

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- For the RCMP members to be deployed to assist with the OPS, the OPS will provide for deployed RCMP members to be appointed as special constables under section 53 of the *Police Services Act* for the purpose of carrying out their duties under this MOA. OPS acknowledges that deployed members appointed as special constables remain subject to the disciplinary and oversight provisions of the *RCMP Act*.
- The command and control of police operations relating to public security within the City of Ottawa during the Rally is based on a unified command structure centered in the NCRCC under the direction of the Unified Steering Committee. The NCRCC is jointly operated by the OPS and the RCMP.

5. Why haven't the OPS taken stronger enforcement actions sooner?

- This is an evolving situation. The events over the past week have seen changes in the numbers on the ground and enforcement tactics.
- I am confident the OPS are putting in a full effort.
- Let me reassure you that law enforcement focusses on the red zone perimeters where resultant bad behaviour would be the most catastrophic. If crowds are large there too, most members will need to remain close, and we are in fact, outnumbered.
- Law enforcement actions need to be carefully weighed against the amount of people and infrastructure present. It has always proven to be a better tactic, to wait until the crowds dissipate before taking any stronger actions.

6. If pressed about the OPS, or lack of enforcement actions etc:

- An overarching objective in the management of any situation is to seek to minimize the risk to public safety and public infrastructure. This has been a challenging and rapidly evolving situation and police forces across the country are learning from the experience in Ottawa. The focus has been on containing the risk of violence and the response has been constrained in part by a lack of resources.
- I am sure there will be many lessons learned from this situation, but the key question now is how to do we resolve the situation.

7. What actions have the OPS taken?

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- The OPS have ticketed hundreds of individuals, have arrested 7 so far, and have 36 investigations underway, to my current awareness.
- No one has been killed, no property irrevocably vandalized, and no riots have taken place. Given the outnumbered resources factor; the OPS, the OPP, the RCMP, the PPS, Sudbury, York, Durham, and quite a lot more police forces all across the country- are working around the clock to protect Canadians and minimize the potential damage to the public's safety and infrastructure.

8. What is the engagement with the OPP?

- The OPP have been deployed to assist the OPS since the beginning.
- As of yesterday, there were 109 OPP officers deployed to support OPS. I am told there was previously a ratio of 3 to 1 of OPP members to OPS members last weekend, but that after the week calmed down, they scaled back due to inactivity mid-week, but would support further if asked.

9. What is next Commissioner?

- At this point, it's a matter of waiting out the dissipation of crowds from the weekend, and conducting fresh assessments of the situation early in the week, then allowing OPS to put their plan into action.

10. Is there foreign interference taking place?

- To our knowledge, thanks to RCMP intelligence efforts, we have so far not seen any indication of foreign interference.

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